

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 2 and 4-7 and leaves claim 3 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-7.

Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, wish to thank Examiner Patel for the courtesy extended during the interview of April 30, 2007 during which the issues related to the outstanding rejections of the claims were discussed.

Particularly, during such interview it was discussed that there are numerous differences between the features of the present invention and the references of record particularly Ofer (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,059). It was discussed that Ofer merely discloses a system having a host controller 21 in which a plurality of request queues 27a_{1-n} are contained, each of which stores data requests from a host computer for a particular logical unit identified by a logical unit number (LUN), and a memory 24 having a plurality of mailboxes corresponding to the logical units and identified by LUNs within which requests to be transferred to the logical units are stored. It was also pointed out during the interview, that a LUN which is used to identify a particular request queue is the same LUN which is used to identify a mailbox and is the same LUN which is used in a data request to identify a particular area, logical unit, on a storage device 26a₁, to be accessed.

Thus, it was agreed during the interview that at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Ofer that a translation occurs between a logical unit number used in a data request from the host computer and a logical unit number which identifies a logical unit resident on the storage devices 26 to which access is desired. Ofer merely discloses that the same LUN, used in the data request, is used to identify the logical unit on the storage 26 to which

the data request is directed. Therefore, the present invention is entirely different from that taught by Ofer.

To further emphasize the difference between the present invention and Ofer, an amendment was made to the claims recite that the first and second logical unit numbers are different from each other and become related according to the mapping. In other words, the logical unit number used by the host computer to access a logical unit does not correspond (not related) to a logical unit number which identifies the particular area of the storage to which access is desired, except for the use of the mapping function. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Ofer.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. Various amendments were made throughout claim 4 to bring it into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made to claim 4 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Office Action.

Claim 5 stands objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 8 of the Office Action. Amendments were made to claim 5 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ofer (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,059). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present

invention as now recited in claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are not taught or suggested by Ofer whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

As described above, an agreement was reached with the Examiner as to the distinguishing features of the present invention and amendments were made to the claims so as to clarify and more clearly describe such features. Support for such features can be found, for example, in Figs. 2 and 3 and the corresponding descriptions thereof. In such description, it is clear that LUN 103 is different from LUN 43a and that they become related due to the intermediate logical device 102 and the virtualization setting function 101. Such features are not taught or suggested by Ofer.

Therefore, this rejection has been overcome and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-4, 6 and 7.

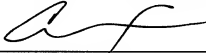
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 10 of the Office Action that claim 5 is allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-7 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (1309.43490X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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